GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
OPENING OF SIACHEN TO TOURISTS
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated a scheme of opening Siachen to tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether neighbouring countries have opposed the said scheme threatening that it will affect the ongoing peace-talks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(e) whether foreign tourists will also be permitted to visit Siachen?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 222 FOR ANSWER ON 19.11.2007

The area mentioned in the question falls within the State of Jammu & Kashmir which is an integral part of India. Trekking expeditions have been taking place in the area subject to appropriate clearance.

In September 2007, the Government of Pakistan protested against the trekking expeditions in the Siachen area expressing their deep concern over the media reports in this regard and stating that Siachen issue is being discussed within the framework of the Composite Dialogue.

Suitable reply was given to Government of Pakistan clarifying that trekking expeditions have been taking place in the past and India does not see how these will have an adverse impact on the dialogue process.